



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

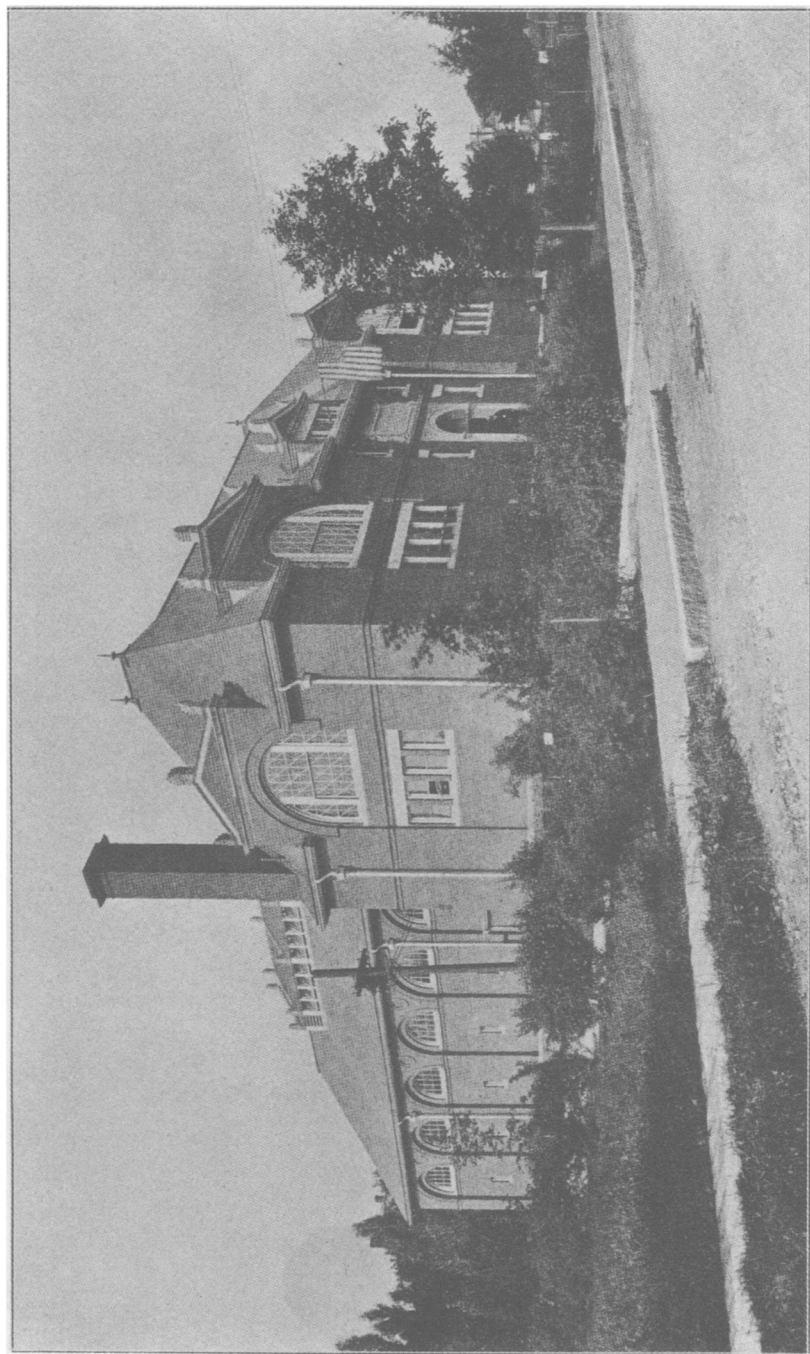
JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## THE MODEL PUBLIC BATH AT BROOKLINE.

THE new public bath of Brookline, Mass., is a noteworthy and unique institution. It bears the distinction of being the first municipal, all-the-year-round bathing establishment in the United States having swimming facilities as well as cleanliness baths. It is a model institution, for it embodies in its construction and management many suggestive features for other cities and towns looking to the same wise provision for the people. Brookline has shown what an inland town can do to offset the disadvantages of having no water frontage. It has proved that a public bath can be erected which will be patronized by every class. It has further demonstrated the feasibility of making the art of swimming more generally acquired, and it has established the fact that by a small fee a public bath can be made almost, if not entirely, self-supporting.

The proposition to establish a public bath was first presented at a town meeting in 1895, when a committee of three was authorized to proceed in the matter. This committee was composed of Dr. H. Lincoln Chase, agent of the board of health; Mr. James B. Hand, formerly connected with the same board, and Miss Martha Edgerly, of the board of trustees of the poor. The best points in all baths, home and foreign, were utilized by the architect, Mr. F. Joseph Untersee, of Brookline, the finished structure costing \$40,000, exclusive of the land.

The bath is centrally located near the railroad station and close to the finely equipped new high school. It faces the principal public playground. The handsome building is in T-shape, with 86 feet front and a depth of 129 feet, its materials being water-struck brick and limestone. The head-house has a handsome main entrance in the center, and contains a vestibule, hall, and waiting-room, with office for attendants, the last being supplied with cupboards for bathing suits and towels. On the left, as one enters, is the room for private bathing, fitted up with three tubs and six Gegenström showers, with room for more.



THE NEW PUBLIC BATH AT BROOKLINE, MASS.

The size of each rain-bath is  $4 \times 4$ , with a dressing alcove of the same dimensions. On the right is the swimming-school room,  $28 \times 26$ , containing a swimming tank,  $10 \times 24$ , which varies in depth from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 feet. This room has also a rain-bath and six double dressing-rooms. The rain-baths are all of the Gegenström pattern, which permits the bather to regulate the temperature of the water to suit himself.

Doors at either side of the superintendent's office admit to the main part of the building, which contains the natatorium and spectators' gallery. The apartment is 48 feet wide, 99 feet long, and 32 feet high to the apex of the vaulted ceiling. This splendid hall is finely lighted by arched and gable windows on the three sides, and a large skylight,  $15 \times 52$ . The flooring is all of artificial stone. The tank is  $80 \times 26$  and has an average of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet of water. A heavy brass guard-rail is placed at the edge of the tank, having marble cuspidors at regular intervals. Steps of Tennessee marble lead into the water at the four corners.

A very suggestive feature consists in having 42 dressing-rooms around the tank, with passageways, 3 feet 6 inches, on either side. This special arrangement (to be found only in the best and most recently equipped bathing establishments of the continent) has many advantages. Among them are the convenience of keeping clean the inner passageway around the tank, the better ventilation of the dressing-rooms, and better order among the bathers. The inner passageway next the tank is used only by patrons in swimming costumes, and the outer for entrance and exit. In the center south end of the hall are three rain-baths, and two additional ones are located at each side of the north end, all being provided with foot-baths. These are used for the preliminary cleansing bath, which is required before the bather is allowed to go into the swimming tank.

The large swimming tank, like the small instruction tank, is lined with white glazed brick on the sides, but the floors are covered with light adamantine mosaic, as bricks would be too slippery. This lining is visible through the perfect transparency

of the water, making a remarkably dainty bath. One may venture to say that the construction of these swimming tanks could not be improved.

A very important feature of the Brookline bath is the heating of the water and the floors, to which considerable thought and ingenuity has been applied. The disadvantages of other swimming baths inhere in the fact that the water is generally of varying temperature because of the natural tendency of warmer water to rise to the surface. Ordinary methods of steam injection were out of the question because of the noise and the danger from the pipes. By the system devised, the water in the tanks, taken from the public water supply, is constantly changing; yet the standard temperature, from 75 to 80° F., is easily maintained. A four-inch supply pipe from the city main was brought in from the street and around the side of the tank to the farther end, where water is admitted at the bottom. Five Y-branches in the supply pipe (into each of which a steam condenser with a valve was screwed) regulate the temperature of the water flowing into the tank. Entering at slow velocity, the warm water is expected to spread and rise to the surface as it passes down to the opposite end. When the tank is full, water is drawn from the bath at the street end and at the bottom by a No. 5 pulso-meter, thus thoroughly mixing the stratum that would otherwise remain on the surface; steam is then forced around the supply pipe, the street connection being closed, and the temperature of the tank is equably maintained. Impurities, if present, are constantly swept from the surface of the water by a superficial current from a large copper gargoyle (a dolphin carrying the infant Neptune) at one end of the tank. Steam-pipes passing under the main hall keep warm the stone floors of the dressing-rooms and corridors.

Two horizontal tubular boilers in the front basement furnish the steam to heat the entire building. The spectators' gallery (also used as a running track) is reached by a stairway from the entrance hall, which also conducts the visitor to the handsome club-rooms lately fitted up in the second story of the head-house.

The building also contains a steam laundry for suits and towels, toilet-rooms, and every modern convenience, including a hair-drying room for women.

In the management of the institution those in charge have found, in two years' experience, that the fee system not only promotes self-respect, but also decorum and good order, and helps to make the bath self-supporting. The bathing charge, which includes provision of suit, soap, and towel, ranges from 5 cents during the day to 10, 15, and 25 cents in the evening. The fee for non-residents is 25 and 50 cents. About 46,000 baths were taken last year, at a net cost to the town for maintenance of \$3,000, which will be greatly reduced this year. About 12,000 baths were free, for on two days in the week no charge is made. Most of the time the use of the natatorium is free to school children. It is an interesting fact that, though swimming instruction is not absolutely compulsory, it is now a part of the regular school curriculum in Brookline, and the expense, \$500, is defrayed from the school funds. Three experienced teachers of swimming are employed by the town, who use the Prussian method of pole and belt. During the past year 6,130 swimming baths, with or without instruction, were taken by pupils of the Brookline public schools. A large number of these were taught to swim, and it is expected that eventually most of the school children will learn to swim sufficiently well to save their own lives if in danger, and possibly those of others. The impulse given to the noble art of swimming extends beyond the immediate vicinity. A considerable number of Wellesley college girls and of students from the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics patronize the Brookline natatorium. Two flourishing clubs, the Brookline Swimming Club and the Brookline High-School Swimming Association, are the immediate outcome of the building of the bath.

The rules and regulations issued by the management appear to be the embodiment of hygienic science and common-sense. Bathing suits of material without nap and of fast colors only are permitted. Persons who are in the least indisposed are denied the use of the bath. Every bather is given five minutes for a warm shower-bath with soap before entering the swimming tank.

The maximum time for a swim is thirty minutes. Spitting into the water is forbidden, as is also the use of tobacco in the building. Bathers are given wise instructions as to health. They are directed to keep moving in the water, to dress and undress promptly, and after bathing to take a brisk walk in the open air.

Taken all together, the Brookline institution, as a combined recreative and cleanliness bath, is defending the sound sentiment engraved over its door: "The health of the people is the beginning of happiness."

J. A. STEWART.

BOSTON, MASS.